

## South-West *Build Wisconsin* Regional Workshop Small Group Record

Small Group Single Red (color)

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### **Top 10 responses to the question: “What can the State do to foster economic growth in your region?”**

Priority response #1 (votes: 7 )

Restructuring education system.

Priority response #2 (votes: 6 )

Infrastructure development.

Priority response #3 (votes: 5 )

Access to capital for businesses in rural areas.

Priority response #4 (votes: 3 )

Agricultural development.

Priority response #5 (votes: 2 )

Tax revision.

Priority response #6 (votes: 1 )

Regional marketing.

Priority response #7 (votes: 1 )

Economic development collaboration.

Priority response #8 (votes: 1 )

Residential housing.

Priority response #9 (votes: 1 )

Non-profit.

Priority response #10 (votes: )

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## **“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise**

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #1], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

### **Priority Issue #1 Restructuring education system.**

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

- \*More incentives to 18 year olds to not just go to college here, but to stay through job opportunities.
- \*K-12 should be an equal partner in community development (opportunities are school to work programs and the development of community curriculum.
- \*Schools are centers of many small communities. Good schools = good communities.
- \*Percentage of students loan forgiveness if working in Wisconsin.
- \*Do not charge out of state tuition. Attract students.
- \*Investing in education—primarily K-12.
  - Target low income areas.
  - Review home schooling.
  - Professional dollars for teacher training.
  - Merit for teachers for integrating innovative student programs in the community.
  - Give teachers credits for being active in the community. (Implementing in 2004).
- \*College projects—Models that are presented to businesses of services they can provide.
- \*Non-profit may be able to provide communities development projects for K-12.

## **Priority Issue #2 Infrastructure Development**

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

- \*Comprehensive planning—(small growth)—long range planning for infrastructure in communities.

- \*Educating government officials that infrastructure is an investment not an expense.

- \*Develop a north-south 4-lane transportation corridor.

- \*Develop a high speed rail service.

- \*Upgrade roads in lower half of region.

## **Priority Issue #3 Access to capital for businesses in rural areas.**

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

- \*Eliminate obstacles to receive capital (guarantee and direct programs)...WHEDA—for business start-ups and on-going business.

- \*Balance of wealth to the community and/or purchases within the trade area to be another consideration for access to capital.

- \*Expanding the micro-loan to include housing.

- \*Opportunity to develop more angel investment groups to serve the small area arena.

- \*State must provide training to the financial industries to extend their knowledge and create their own angel groups.

- \*Intensive technical assistance for micro-loans. (Already done in some areas, but not region wide.)